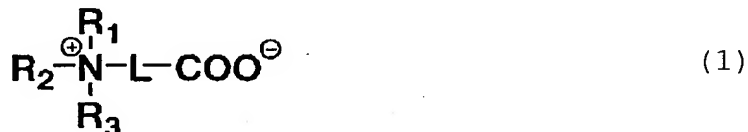


WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. An ink set comprising at least four kinds of inks including colorless ink, wherein at least one ink of the at least four kinds of inks contains a betaine compound.

2. The ink set as claimed in claim 1, wherein the betaine compound is represented by the following formula (1):



wherein  $R_1$ ,  $R_2$  and  $R_3$  each represents an alkyl group, an aryl group or a heterocyclic group, at least two of  $R_1$ ,  $R_2$  and  $R_3$  may be linked with each other to form a ring structure;  $L$  represents a divalent linking group; and at least one of  $R_1$ ,  $R_2$ ,  $R_3$  and  $L$  is a group having from 8 to 40 carbon atoms.

3. The ink set as claimed in claim 2, wherein  $R_1$ ,  $R_2$  and  $R_3$  in formula (1) each represents an alkyl group.

4. The ink set as claimed in claim 2, wherein at least one of  $R_1$ ,  $R_2$ ,  $R_3$  and  $L$  is a linear alkyl group having from 8 to 40 carbon atoms.

5. The ink set as claimed in claim 2, wherein at

least one of  $R_1$ ,  $R_2$  and  $R_3$  is a linear alkyl group having from 8 to 40 carbon atoms.

6. The ink set as claimed in claim 1, wherein the at least four kinds of inks including colorless ink are inks comprising a dye dissolved in water or an organic solvent.

7. The ink set as claimed in claim 1, wherein the at least four kinds of inks including colorless ink are inks of an aqueous solution type containing a water-soluble dye.

8. The ink set as claimed in claim 1, wherein the at least one ink of at least four kinds of inks contains the betaine compound in a proportion of from 0.01 to 20 wt%.

9. The ink set as claimed in claim 1, wherein all of the at least four kinds of inks including colorless ink contain the betaine compound.

10. An ink jet recording method which comprises image-recording by using the ink set claimed in claim 1 with an ink jet printer.